

What is claimed is:

1. A method of washing laundry in a washing machine, having a rotatable tub and a detergent reservoir containing detergent, the method comprising:

loading laundry into the tub;

making a monetary payment to the machine corresponding to

selected quantity of detergent to be used during a wash cycle of the machine;

starting the machine operation;

automatically transferring the selected quantity of detergent

from the reservoir to the tub during the wash cycle of the machine.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the payment is made with coins or currency.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the payment is made with a debit card.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected quantity of detergent is less than the volume of the reservoir.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the detergent is transferred to the tub by pumping.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising making a second monetary payment to the machine corresponding to a selected quantity of a laundry additive to be used during the operation of the machine.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the additive is fabric softener.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the additive is bleach.

9. A washing machine, comprising:  
a tub for holding laundry to be washed;  
a detergent reservoir for holding detergent;  
a control panel to control operation of the machine;  
a monetary payment means operatively connected to the control panel to sense a monetary payment to the machine; and  
a pump operatively connected to the payment means and to the detergent reservoir to automatically pump a selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub, the selected quantity corresponding to the monetary payment.
10. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a coin sensor.
11. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a currency sensor.
12. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a debit card reader.
13. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a coin operated switch.
14. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the reservoir holds sufficient detergent for multiple wash cycles of the machine.
15. The washing machine of claim 9 further comprising an additive reservoir and an additive pump operatively connected to the payment means to automatically transfer a selected quantity of laundry additive to the tub corresponding to a second monetary payment.